

Remarks

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 40 and 47 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) and objections set forth and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant submits that Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 37-40. As such, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12, 13, 15, 17-26, 28-33, 41-44 are patentable in view of their dependency on amended Claim 1.

Claim 37 has been rewritten to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 45-47. As such, Applicant submits that Claims 48-51 are patentable in view of their dependency on amended Claim 37.

Response to Objections to the Drawings

In response to Examiner's objection under 37 CFR 1.83(a), Applicant has amended the claims to remove the reference to the "fluted openings" to "flared openings." Applicant submits the drawings are now in condition of allowance.

Modifications to the Claims

Claims 1, 37, 41-43, and 48-50 have been amended.

Claims 2 and 21 remain in original form.

Claim 4, 6-10, 12, 13, 15, 17-20, 22-26, 28-33, 44, and 51 have been previously presented.

Claims 3, 5, 11, 14, 16, 27, 34-36, 38-40, 45-47 have been cancelled.

Response to the Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter including the set opening should – through bore --.

Applicant has amended claim 9 in accordance with Examiner's instructions.

Response to the Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to Claim 39 because of the following informalities: line 2, "six" should be sixth.

Applicant has cancelled Claim 39. Applicant has incorporated the limitation of Claim 39 into Claim 1 in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations.

Response to the Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12, 13, 15, 17-26, 28-33, and 37-51 under 35 U.S.C § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner states that there is no support in the original filing for "fluted openings."

The Applicant has updated the claims to replace "fluted openings" with "flared openings" in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 43 and 50 under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner holds the term "close" to be indefinite.

The Applicant has updated Claims 43 and 50 to remove the reference to "close."

Response to the Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

The Applicant submits that the rejection under 35 USC § 103 should be removed as Examiner has indicated that Claims 40 and Claim 47 are allowable. Applicant has incorporated these limitations into independent Claims 1 and 37, respectively.

In view of the above, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/Wesley W. Whitmyer, Jr./

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